

Homeland Security Advisory System

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Introduction

- The world has changed since September 11, 2001. We remain a nation at risk to terrorist attacks and will remain at risk for the foreseeable future. At all Threat Conditions, we must remain vigilant, prepared, and ready to deter terrorist attacks. The following Threat Conditions each represent an increasing risk of terrorist attacks. Beneath each Threat Condition are some suggested Protective Measures, recognizing that the heads of Federal departments and agencies are responsible for developing and implementing appropriate agency-specific Protective Measures.

HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISORY SYSTEM



PROTECTIVE MEASURES

1. Low Condition (Green).

- This condition is declared when there is a low risk of terrorist attacks. Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures they develop and implement:
- Refining and exercising as appropriate preplanned Protective Measures;
- Ensuring personnel receive proper training on the Homeland Security Advisory System and specific preplanned department or agency Protective Measures; and
- Institutionalizing a process to assure that all facilities and regulated sectors are regularly assessed for vulnerabilities to terrorist attacks, and all reasonable measures are taken to mitigate these vulnerabilities.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES

2. **Guarded Condition (Blue).**

- This condition is declared when there is a general risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Condition, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:
 - Checking communications with designated emergency response or command locations;
 - Reviewing and updating emergency response procedures; and
 - Providing the public with any information that would strengthen its ability to act appropriately.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES

3. Elevated Condition (Yellow).

- An Elevated Condition is declared when there is a significant risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:
 - Increasing surveillance of critical locations;
 - Coordinating emergency plans as appropriate with nearby jurisdictions;
 - Assessing whether the precise characteristics of the threat require the further refinement of preplanned Protective Measures; and
 - Implementing, as appropriate, contingency and emergency response plans.

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PROTECTIVE MEASURES

4.High Condition (Orange).

- A High Condition is declared when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the Protective Measures taken in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:
- Coordinating necessary security efforts with Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies or any National Guard or other appropriate armed forces organizations;
- Taking additional precautions at public events and possibly considering alternative venues or even cancellation;
- Preparing to execute contingency procedures, such as moving to an alternate site or dispersing their workforce; and
- Restricting threatened facility access to essential personnel only.

PROTECTIVE MEASURES

5. Severe Condition (Red).

- A Severe Condition reflects a severe risk of terrorist attacks. Under most circumstances, the Protective Measures for a Severe Condition are not intended to be sustained for substantial periods of time. In addition to the Protective Measures in the previous Threat Conditions, Federal departments and agencies also should consider the following general measures in addition to the agency-specific Protective Measures that they will develop and implement:
 - Increasing or redirecting personnel to address critical emergency needs;
 - Assigning emergency response personnel and pre-positioning and mobilizing specially trained teams or resources;
 - Monitoring, redirecting, or constraining transportation systems; and
 - Closing public and government facilities.

THE CURRENT THREAT LEVEL

**ORANGE,
OR HIGH CONDITION**

WHEN IS THE THREAT LEVEL DECLARED “ORANGE or HIGH CONDITION”

A High Condition is declared when there is a high risk of terrorist attacks. In addition to the measures taken in the previous threat conditions, federal departments and agencies will consider the following protective measures:

- Coordinate necessary security efforts with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, National Guard or other security and armed forces;
- Take additional precautions at public event, possibly considering alternative venues or even cancellation;
- Prepare to execute contingency procedures, such as moving to an alternate site or dispersing the workforce; and
- Restrict access to a threatened facility to essential personnel only.

WHY THE THREAT LEVEL IS AT LEVEL "ORANGE"

Recent intelligence reports, corroborated through multiple intelligence sources, suggest an increased likelihood that the al Qaeda terrorist network may attempt to attack Americans in the United States or abroad. Based upon specific information analyzed by the intelligence community, and after conferring with the Homeland Security Council, the decision has been made to increase the national threat level from yellow, or "elevated risk," to orange, or "high risk."

IS THIS A RELIGIOUS CONFLICT OR CRIMINAL?

"This is not a campaign that we are fighting against any religion; it's against criminals, it's against terrorism. What we are doing in Afghanistan is against terrorists. Even though we haven't caught Mullah Omar or Usama bin Laden, we have essentially defeated the Taliban and we have made it much, much more difficult for al-Qaida to do anything in Afghanistan.

But al-Qaida is elsewhere in the world. We have to go after them, not just because they are a threat to America. Because they are a threat to civilization. They are a threat to all of us who believe in peace and freedom. All of us suffer from terrorism in one form or another in every country, to include the country and the region that you cover.

And so I think it is the reason that the international coalition has come together -- and all nations, nations in the West, nations in Europe, nations in the Middle East -- nations all over the world are coming together to go after this form of criminality in the world. "

THREATS AND PROTECTION OF INFRASTRUCTURE

Critical infrastructures supply us with the simple conveniences of every day life - turning on a light, using a telephone, or logging on a computer - as well as the goods and services Americans need to survive. These conveniences and services provide the backbone of the U.S. economy.

The USA Patriot Act defines critical infrastructures as "those systems and assets, whether physical or virtual, so vital to the United States that the incapacity or destruction of such systems and assets would have a debilitating impact on security, national economy security, national public health or safety, or combination of those matters."

Protecting America's infrastructure and key assets is a formidable challenge. To address this issue the Department of Homeland Security has organized all of these areas into 13 Critical Infrastructure Sectors including:

U.S.'s 13 CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURES

1. Agriculture
2. Food
3. Water
4. Public Health
5. Emergency Services
6. Government
7. Defense Industrial Base
8. Information and Telecommunications
9. Energy
10. Transportation
11. Banking and Finance
12. Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials
13. Postal and Shipping

QUESTIONS or COMMENTS?

CURRENT TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS US DEPT. of STATE

- Abu Nidal Organization (ANO)
- Abu Sayyaf Group
- Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade
- Armed Islamic Group (GIA)
- Asbat al-Ansar
- Aum Shinrikyo
- Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA)
- Gama'a al-Islamiyya (Islamic Group)
- HAMAS (Islamic Resistance Movement)
- Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM)

TERRORIST ORG.

- Hizballah (Party of God)
- Jaish-e-Mohammed (JEM) (Army of Mohammed)
- al-Jihad (Egyptian Islamic Jihad)
- Kahane Chai (Kach)
- Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) a.k.a. Kurdistan Freedom and Democracy Congress (KADEK)
- Lashkar-e Tayyiba (LT) (Army of the Righteous)

TERRORIST ORG.

- Lashkar i Jhangvi
- Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
- Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MEK)
- Harakat ul-Mujahidin (HUM)
- National Liberation Army (ELN)
- Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)
- Palestine Liberation Front (PLF)
- Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)

TERRORIST ORG.

- PFLP-General Command (PFLP-GC)
- al-Qa'ida
- Real IRA
- Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC)
- Revolutionary Nuclei (formerly ELA)
- Revolutionary Organization 17 November
- Revolutionary People's Liberation Army/Front (DHKP/C)

TERRORIST ORG.

- Salafist Group for Call and Combat (GSPC)
- Shining Path (Sendero Luminoso, SL)
- United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia (AUC)
- Communist Party of the Philippines/New People's Army (CPP/NPA)
- Jemaah Islamiya organization (JI)
- Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU)

Biological Weapons

- Anthrax
- Plague
- Ricin
- Tularemia
- Viral Hemorrhagic Fevers (VHFs)

Radiological Weapons

- Dirty Bomb

Other Weapons

- E-Bomb

Chemical Weapons

- Mustard Gas
- Sarin (GB)
- Soman (GD)
- Tabun (GA)
- VX

Nuclear Weapons

- Atom Bomb
- Hydrogen Bomb
- Loose Nukes"
- "Suitcase" Bomb